

# GRUMMAN DAILY EDITION

## plane news

November 4, 1981

### From sea to shining sea...

Grummanites working at Grumman Allied's Corcoran solar energy plant in California are very concerned about the LTV bid, says Vincent Romeo, plant manager.

"Our primary interest is our Corcoran citizens who work here and live here," Romeo told *The Hanford Sentinel*, a local daily newspaper. "They perform well, and deserve protection."

Grumman has about 50 people working in the Sunstream plant in Corcoran.

The California newspaper reported on October 22 that Don Barnett, executive director of the Kings County Economic Development Commission is also "very concerned about what would happen to the Corcoran plant" if the takeover bid is successful.

"LTV has no long-term commitment to solar energy" as does Grumman, Barnett told the newspaper. If LTV succeeds, and "spins off" non-aerospace plants, said Barnett, concern exists that a subsequent owner may not have the capital to endure a few lean years in the budding solar industry.

Barnett also briefed the Corcoran city council. As a result, the council voted 2 to 1 on October 21 to ratify a letter to California's congressional delegation supporting Grumman's decision.

The newspaper went on to quote Barnett as saying Grumman's plant has been "awfully good" for Corcoran.

### Senators say bigger isn't always better

Grummanites at the Emergency Products division in Roanoke, Virginia, had written to Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr., seeking his help. It turns out, however, that the senator had already made his point on the Senate floor when LTV made its tender.

"Sixteen years of experience on the Senate Armed Services Committee have taught me that this Nation needs more defense contractors, not fewer," Senator Byrd was quoted in the September 24 *Congressional Record*. "We have too little competition for most weapons systems now. The merger of huge contractors could further reduce that competition and inevitably raise prices.

"In addition — and importantly — beyond the issue of cost competition is the reduction in research and development capability which takes place when big defense contractors are swallowed up by still bigger ones."

Pennsylvania State Senator Henry Hager had much the same feeling toward the potential merger. According to the national weekly *Grit*, he said, "Not only is the

preservation of jobs essential, but also preservation of competition in the aerospace field. That competition is vital not only to our local economy, but is critical to the survival of the free enterprise system itself, and permitting one aerospace giant to purchase another would run counter to this belief."

### His 32-year-old composition is still timely

*"Some of the big U.S. airplane producers have a standing — and pressing — invitation to move. The invitation comes from their biggest customers, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Navy.*

*"Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation ... was recently asked by the Navy to consider moving to Phoenix, Arizona."*

Don't be alarmed. While they did make a big impression on many people, such as Grummanite "Scotty" Mayors, those words were printed in 1949.

When *Business Week* magazine ran the story on August 20, 1949, the fear was that the aircraft manufacturers on the East and West Coasts were vulnerable to attack. The suggestion of moving those companies made their communities vulnerable.

Mayors wrote a song about what might happen if Grumman had to leave Long Island. Recently, he took it out of safekeeping and sent a copy to *Plane News*.

"I composed this little 'ditty' in 1949, never realizing how prophetic it might be in 1981 if LTV has their way."

"On January 20, 1982, I will have completed 35 years with the company," says Mayors, who is an employment administrator with Grumman Data Systems at headquarters. "It will be as a Grummanite!"

Here are a couple of stanzas from Mayors song, "Ghost Planes in Bethpage Sky," written to the tune of "Ghost Riders in the Sky."

*A cowboy from Long Island rode the Bethpage Trail one day  
He saw a sign that read "The Grumman plant has moved away,"  
They've gone to Arizona where the weather's hot and dry  
Away from damp Long Island with their jet planes in the sky.  
Yippee ki—yi — to Phoenix we fly!  
Ghost planes in Bethpage sky.*

*The boys from Vought were overwrought, from Texas they had fled  
To work in cool Long Island, they did move their board and bed;  
"Oh Lordy, no!" they all exclaimed, "we're much too young to die,  
Don't send us back to gophers, snakes and bugs and huge cactii."  
Yippee ki—vi — Cast is the die  
Ghost planes in Bethpage sky.*

Mayors didn't change any of the words for the occasion of LTV's tender for Grumman. In 1948, about a year before he wrote the song, Vought had moved its home in Stratford, Connecticut, to Grand Prairie, Texas.

November 3, 1981 — Grumman shares closed at 29 1/4 today, approximately 11,600 Grumman shares were traded.